

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree;
and
applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying the filter further comprises the step of selecting objects from multiple parent objects.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the multiple parent objects are contained on multiple platforms.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.
- CA 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the customized tree.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of adding an object to the customized tree.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of removing an object of the customized tree.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of copying an object into the customized tree.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

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11. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of removing the customized tree.
 12. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of changing an object.
 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.
 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of restricting access to the customized tree.
 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.
 16. The method of claim 15, wherein each label distinguishes between different objects of a similar type.
 17. The method of claim 15, wherein each label is an indicator of a filter.
 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.
 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the customized tree contains a subset of the objects of the original tree.
 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the objects of the customized tree are organized in a user-specified manner.
 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating multiple customized trees.

22. (TWICE AMENDED) An apparatus for creating a customized tree in a computer, the apparatus comprising:

a computer having a data storage device connected thereto, wherein the data storage device stores objects contained in a original tree; and

one or more computer programs for selecting an object on the original tree to be contained in the customized tree in response to user input, wherein the one or more objects are located in disparate places across different branches of the original tree, and linking the selected objects from the disparate places in the customized tree in a user-specified manner.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

means for creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree; and

means for applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object.

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24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the means for applying the filter further comprises the means for selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the multiple parent objects are contained on multiple platforms.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

27. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for modifying the customized tree.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for adding an object to the customized tree.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for removing an object of the customized tree.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for copying an object into the customized tree.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for removing the customized tree.

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33. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for modifying further comprises means for changing an object.

34. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.

35. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for restricting access to the customized tree.

36. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein each label distinguishes between different objects of a similar type.

38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein each label is an indicator of a filter.

39. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

40. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the customized tree contains a subset of the objects of the original tree.

41. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the objects of the customized tree are organized in a user-specified manner.

42. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising means for creating multiple customized trees.

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43. (TWICE AMENDED) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for creating a customized tree from a original tree containing objects from a data storage device connected to the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more objects on the original tree to be contained in the customized tree in response to user input, wherein the one or more objects are located in disparate places across different branches of the original tree; and;

linking the selected objects from the disparate places in the customized tree in a user-specified manner.

44. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the steps of:
creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter specifies a selection criteria to select objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree; and

applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object.

45. The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the step of applying the filter further comprises the step of selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

46. The article of manufacture of claim 45, wherein the multiple parent objects are contained on multiple platforms.

47. The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

48. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of modifying the customized tree.

49. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of adding an object to the customized tree.

50. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of removing an object of the customized tree.

51. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of copying an object into the customized tree.

52. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

53. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of removing the customized tree.

54. The article of manufacture of claim 48, wherein the step of modifying further comprises the step of changing an object.

55. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.

56. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of restricting access to the customized tree.

57. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

58. The article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein each label distinguishes between different objects of a similar type.

59. The article of manufacture of claim 57, wherein each label is an indicator of a filter.

60. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

61. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the customized tree contains a subset of the objects of the original tree.

62. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the objects of the customized tree are organized in a user-specified manner.

63. The article of manufacture of claim 43, further comprising the step of creating multiple customized trees.

64. A method of creating a customized tree in a computer from a original tree containing objects from a data storage device connected to the computer, the method comprising:

selecting one or more objects on the original tree to be contained in the customized tree in response to user input;

creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter comprises user specified filter criteria, a user specified comparator operator, and a user-specified comparison value, wherein the user-specified comparator operator specifies how the user-specified filter criteria is compared with the user-specified comparison value, to determine objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree;

applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object; and

linking the selected objects in a user-specified manner.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein the step of applying the filter further comprises selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

66. The method of claim 64, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

67. The method of claim 64, further comprising modifying the customized tree.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises adding an object to the customized tree.

69. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises removing an object of the customized tree.

70. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises copying an object into the customized tree.

71. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

72. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises removing the customized tree.

73. The method of claim 67, wherein the modifying comprises changing an object.

74. The method of claim 64, further comprising using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.

75. The method of claim 64, further comprising restricting access to the customized tree.

76. The method of claim 64, further comprising enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

C2 77. The method of claim 64, further comprising providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

78. An apparatus for creating a customized tree in a computer, the apparatus comprising:
a computer having a data storage device connected thereto, wherein the data storage device stores objects contained in an original tree;

one or more computer programs, executed by the computer, for selecting an object on the original tree to be contained in the customized tree in response to user input;

one or more computer programs, executed by the computer, for creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter comprises user specified filter criteria, a user specified comparator operator, and a user-specified comparison value, wherein the user-specified comparator operator specifies how the user-specified filter criteria is compared with the user-specified comparison value, to determine objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree;

one or more computer programs, executed by the computer, for applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object; and

one or more computer programs, executed by the computer, for linking the selected objects in a user-specified manner;

79. The apparatus of claim 78, wherein the one or more computer programs for applying the filter are configured to select the objects from multiple parent objects.

80. The apparatus of claim 78, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

81. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising one or more computer programs for modifying the customized tree.

82. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to add an object to the customized tree.

C2 83. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to remove an object of the customized tree.

84. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to copy an object into the customized tree.

85. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to copy an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

86. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to remove the customized tree.

87. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein one or more computer programs for modifying are configured to change an object.

88. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising one or more computer programs for using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.

89. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising one or more computer programs for restricting access to the customized tree.

90. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising one or more computer programs for enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

91. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising one or more computer programs for providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.

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92. An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for creating a customized tree from an original tree containing objects from a data storage device connected to the computer, the method comprising:

selecting one or more objects on the original tree to be contained in the customized tree in response to user input;

creating a filter for the selected object in response to user input, wherein the filter comprises user specified filter criteria, a user specified comparator operator, and a user-specified comparison value, wherein the user-specified comparator operator specifies how the user-specified filter criteria is compared with the user-specified comparison value, to determine objects to be contained within the selected object on the customized tree;

applying the filter to create the customized tree with the selected object and the objects to be contained within the selected object; and

linking the selected objects in a user-specified manner.

93. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein applying the filter comprises selecting objects from multiple parent objects.

94. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein if the objects to be selected by the filter change, the customized tree is automatically updated to reflect the changed objects.

95. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein the method further comprises modifying the customized tree.

96. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises adding an object to the customized tree.

97. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises removing an object of the customized tree.

98. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises copying an object into the customized tree.

C2 99. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises copying an object from a first position in the customized tree to a second position in the customized tree.

100. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises removing the customized tree.

101. The article of manufacture of claim 95, wherein the modifying comprises changing an object.

102. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein the method further comprises using the customized tree to simultaneously perform an action on multiple objects contained in the customized tree.

103. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein the method further comprises restricting access to the customized tree.

104. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein the method further comprises enabling customization of labels for objects in the customized tree.

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105. The article of manufacture of claim 92, wherein the method further comprises providing graphical user interfaces for creating the customized tree and wherein the user input is received from one or more graphical user interfaces.